

The Kardashians are worth

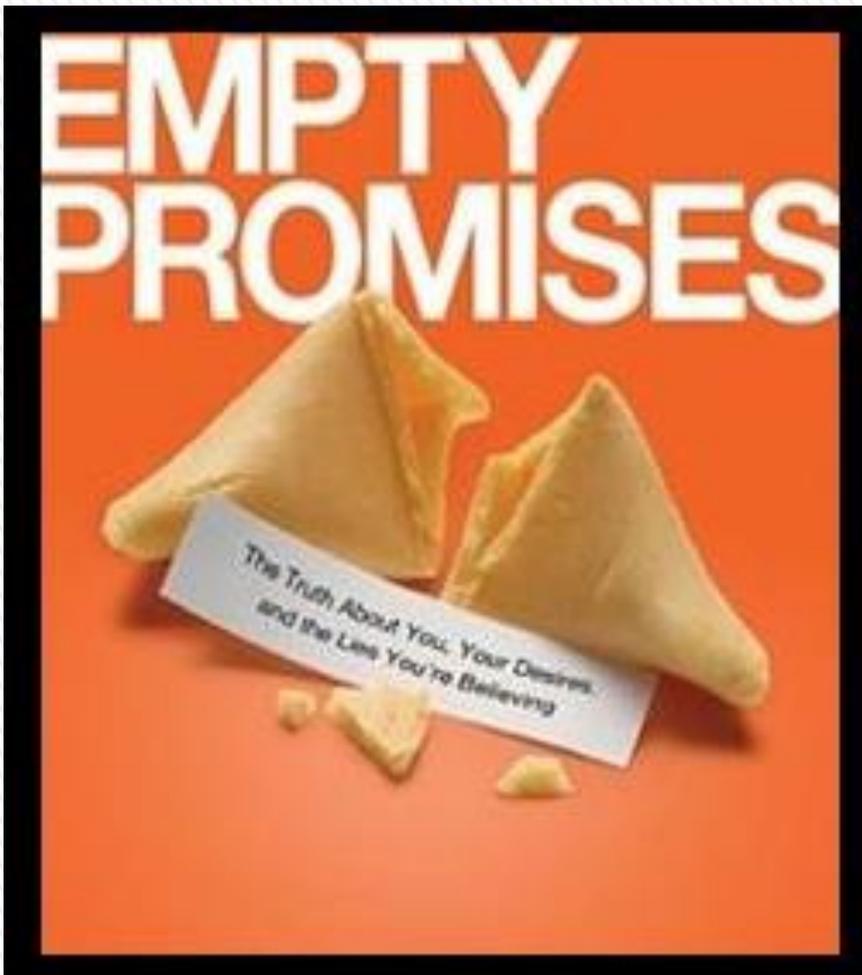
- a) “Keeping up with!”
- b) ignoring!
- c) our prayers
- d) millions
- e) winning the award for America’s most famous dysfunctional family.
- f) all of the above
- g) certain combinations of the above

Dallas Willard said that one of the fundamental questions every human being asks is, “Who has ‘the good life’?” I believe our endless and growing preoccupation with celebrities has to do largely with that question.

-- Pastor Pete Wilson, *Empty Promises*

Proverbs 14 The Voice

¹² Before every person
lies a road that seems to be right,
but the end of that road
is death *and destruction*.



#2

Bible Reading: Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 The Voice

Sermon: Gary Olsen, Lead Pastor, Dr. Ministry

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 The Voice

¹ I said to myself,
“Let me dabble and test you in pleasure
and see if there is any good *in that*.”
But look, that, too, was fleeting.
² Of laughter I said, “Foolishness.”
Of pleasure, “And in the end what is
accomplished?”

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 The Voice

³ So I thought about drinking wine, for it soothes the flesh. But all the while my mind was filled with thoughts of wisdom —about how to rein in foolishness— until I might understand the best way for us to live out our brief lives and number of days under heaven.

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 The Voice

⁴ *Next*, I began some enormous projects, building my own houses and planting my own vineyards.

⁵ I designed *impressive* gardens and parks and planted them with all kinds of fruit trees.

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 The Voice

⁶ I installed pools of water to irrigate the forests of young saplings.

⁷ I acquired male and female servants;

I even had servants born into my household. I had herds *of*

cattle, flocks of sheep and goats

—more than anyone who had ever lived in Jerusalem before me.

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 The Voice

⁸ I amassed a fortune in silver and gold,
and *I stockpiled* the treasures of kings
and provinces. I hired men and women to
sing *and entertain me*,
and *I pampered myself with*
what every man desires—many women.

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 The Voice

⁹ I *surrounded myself with all this*
and became great,
far greater than anyone who had ever lived
in Jerusalem before me.
And still, my wisdom never left my side.

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 The Voice

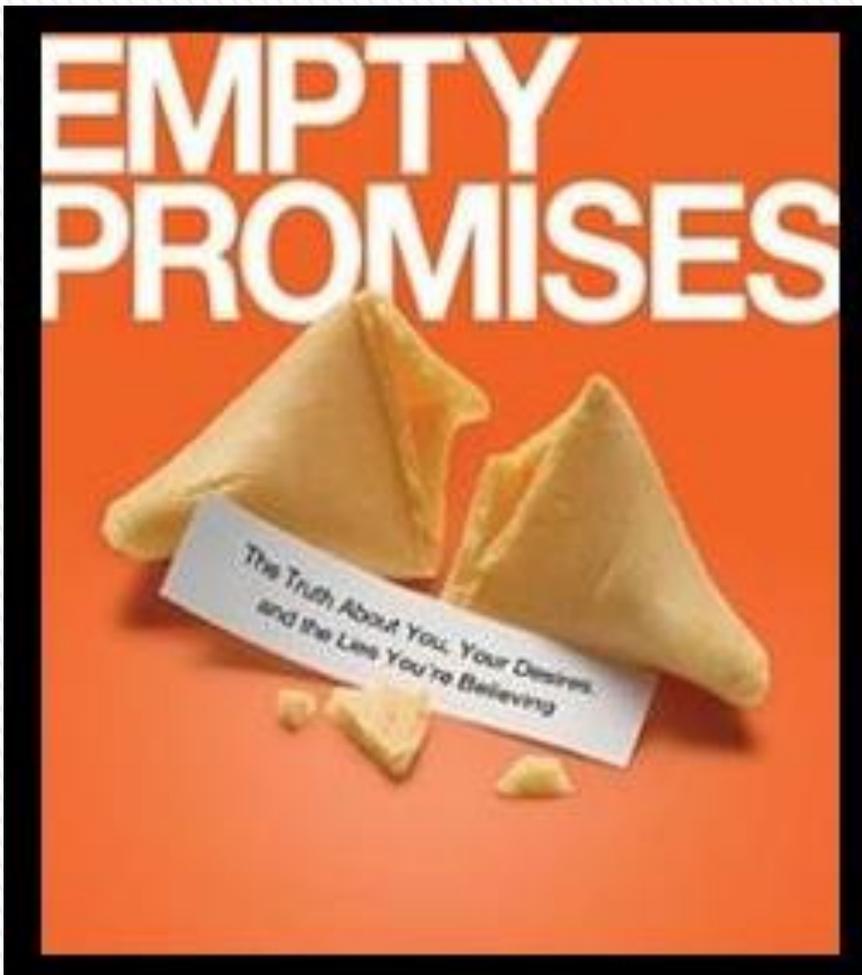
¹⁰ *Throughout this experiment,*
I let myself have anything my eyes desired,
and I did not withhold from
my mind any pleasure.

What was the conclusion?

My mind found joy in all the work I did
—my work was its own reward!

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 The Voice

¹¹ As I continued musing over all I had accomplished and the hard work it took, *I concluded that* all this, too, was fleeting, like trying to embrace the wind. Is there any real gain *by all our hard work* under the sun?



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Ecclesiastes 2 The Voice

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Ecclesiastes 2 The Voice

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Ecclesiastes 2 The Voice

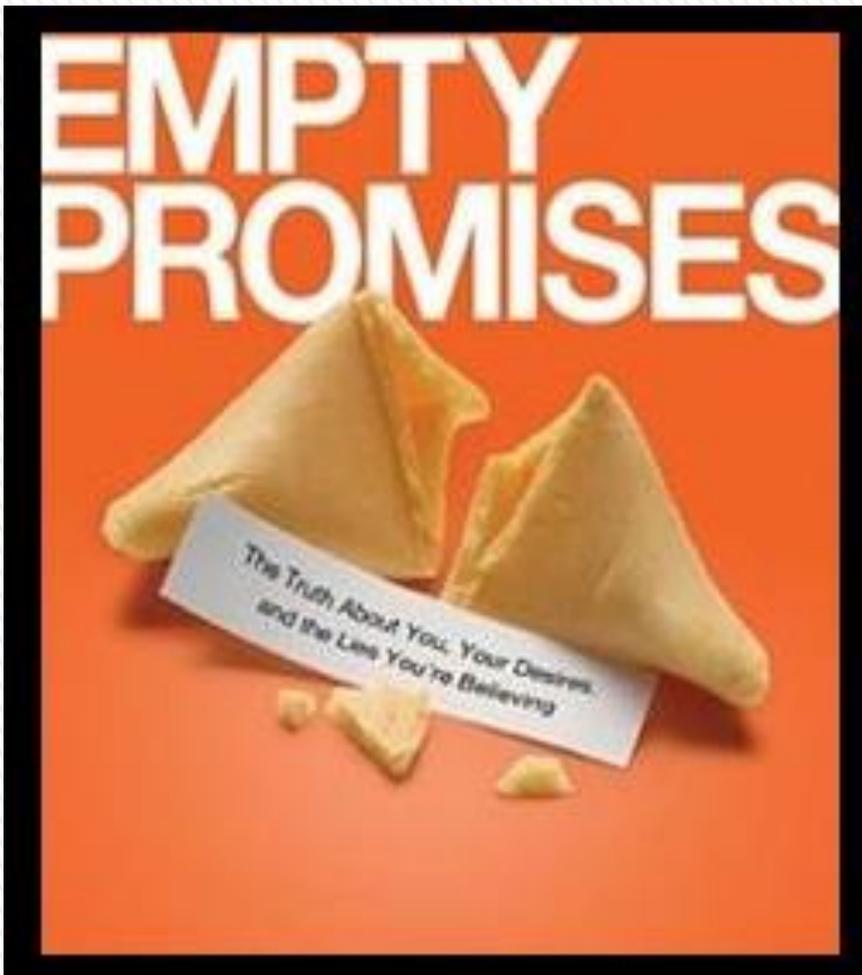
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Ecclesiastes 2 The Voice

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Ecclesiastes 2 The Voice

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Ecclesiastes 7:27-29 The Voice

²⁷ Look at this!

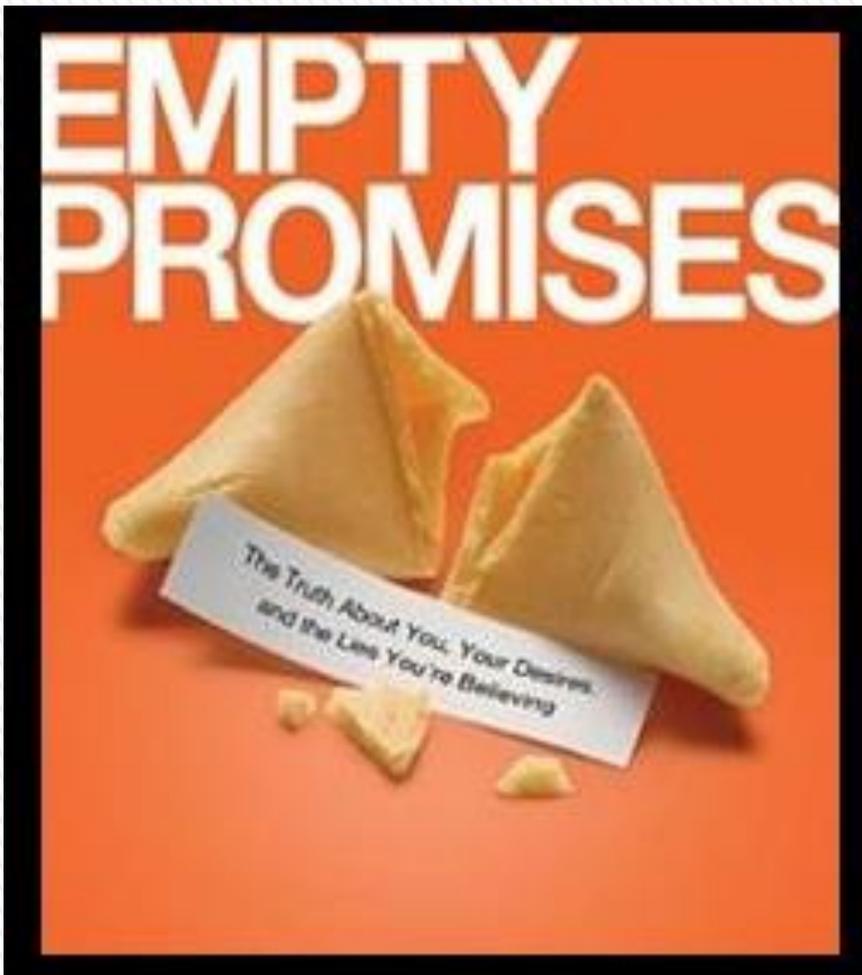
After investigating the matter thoroughly to find out why things are as they are ...

²⁹ Here is what I have figured out:

God made humanity for good,
but *we* humans go out
and scheme our way *into trouble*.

Ecclesiastes 7:27-29 NCV

²⁹ One thing I have learned:
God made people good,
but they have found
all kinds of ways to be bad.”



#2

Bible Reading: Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 The Voice

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The desire for celebrity = the desire

to be noticed

to be admired

to be looked-up to

to be an example

to be a trend-setter

What matters is:

What do you want
to be an example of?

What do you want
to be looked-up to for?

Action Step #1

Mine the Bible for
the people God admires

Action Step #2

Study what the Bible admires people for: why are they worth “keeping up with”?

Action Step #3

Ask the Lord to supply you
with that worthy quality

Action Step #4

Seize the opportunities
to live God's admired life

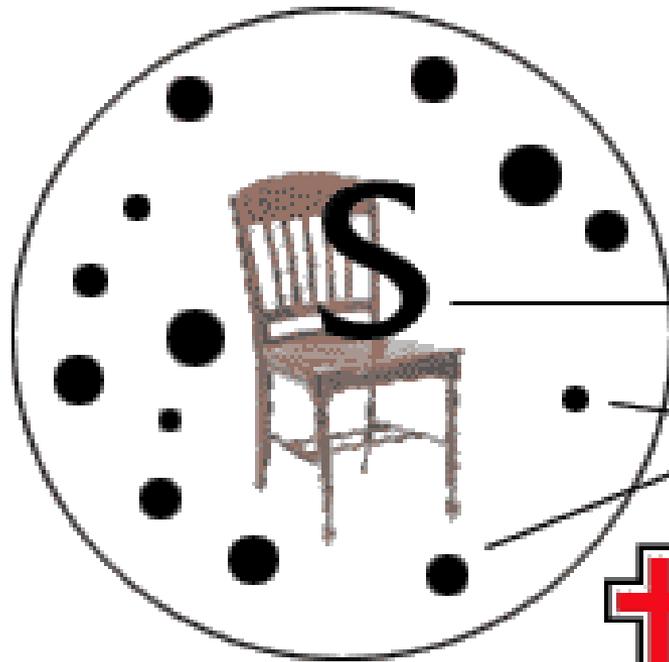
You see, the question
we're dealing with in this study
is not, "Do you have idols?" ...

The real question
for any of us is this:

Which idol is God's biggest rival in your life?

-- Pastor Pete Wilson, *Empty Promises*

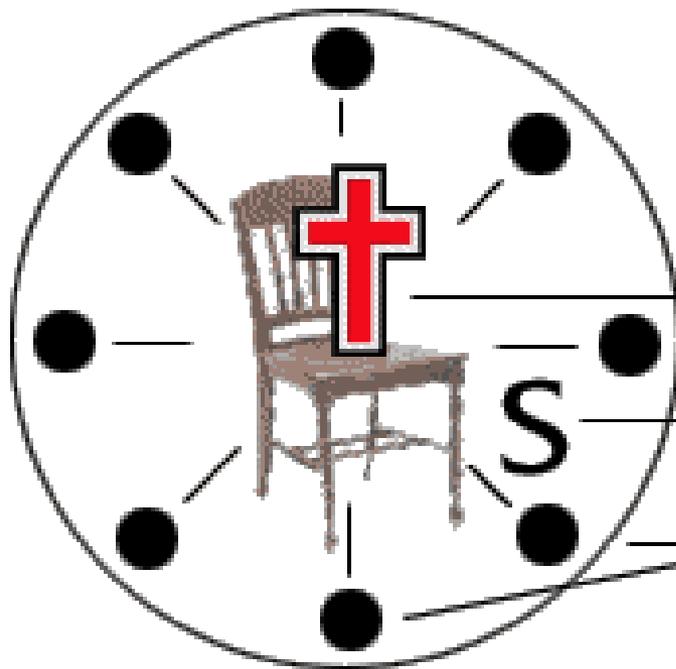
THE SELF-DIRECTED LIFE



SELF is on the throne

**Interests are directed by self,
resulting in discord, frustration**

Christ is outside the life



THE CHRIST-DIRECTED LIFE

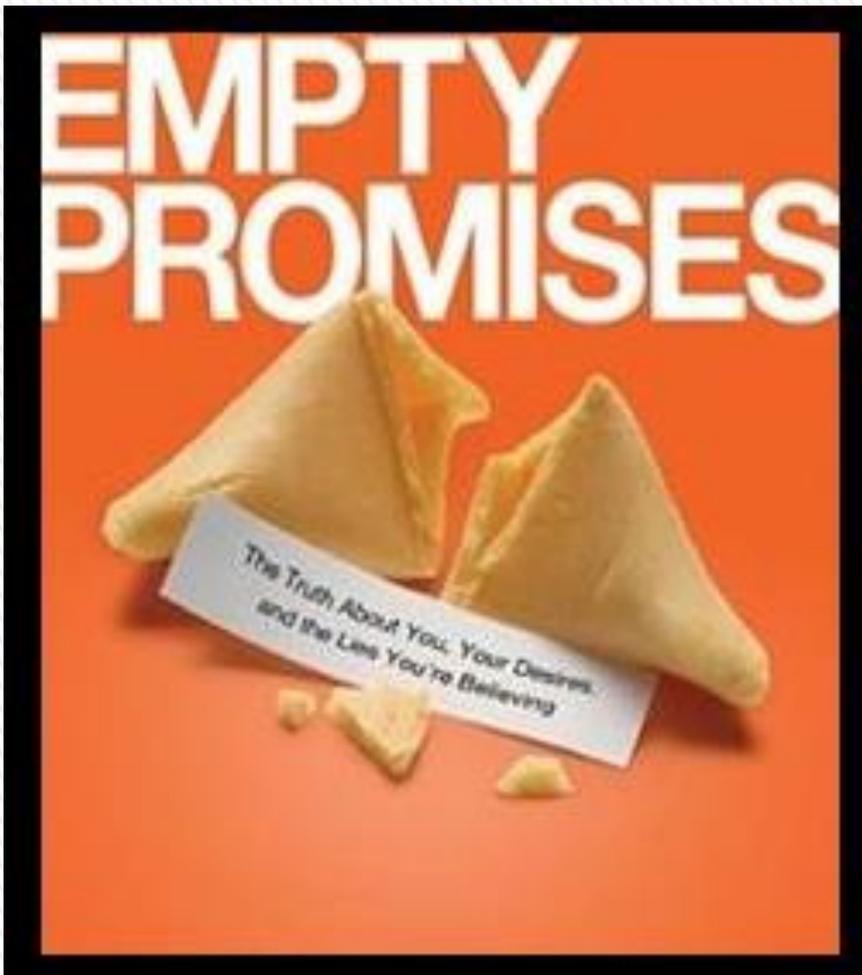
CHRIST is on the throne

Self is yielding to Christ

**Interests are directed by Christ,
resulting in harmony with God's plan**

**Be not full of
yourself!**

**Be filled with
the Holy Spirit!**



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